

Please add the following new claims:

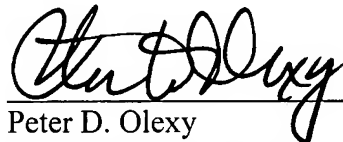
16. The membrane electrode assembly according to claim 5, wherein said polymer electrolyte membrane is made of a sulfonated hydrocarbon polymer that may contain oxygen in its skeleton or other substituent groups than a sulfonic group.

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17. The polymer electrolyte fuel cell constituted by stacking a plurality of said membrane electrode assemblies according to claim 5 via separator plates

REMARKS

Multiple dependency is removed from the claims. The claims are not narrowed. Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

10. The membrane electrode assembly according to claim 1-~~or~~5, wherein said polymer electrolyte membrane is made of a sulfonated hydrocarbon polymer that may contain oxygen in its skeleton or other substituent groups than a sulfonic group.

12. The polymer electrolyte fuel cell constituted by stacking a plurality of said membrane electrode assemblies according to claim 1-~~or~~5 via separator plates.

Claims 16 and 17 are added as new claims.